

## **Township of Southgate**

### **Administration Office**

185667 Grey Road 9, RR 1

Dundalk, ON N0C 1B0

**Phone:** 519-923-2110

**Toll Free:** 1-888-560-6607

**Fax:** 519-923-9262

**Web:** [www.southgate.ca](http://www.southgate.ca)

## **Staff Report CAO2021-068**

**Title of Report:** Southgate Climate Change Action Planning Update & Discussion Report

**Department:** Administration

**Council Date:** October 20, 2021

### **Council Recommendation:**

**Be it resolved that** Council receive Staff Report CAO2021-068 as information; and

**That** Council provide direction to Southgate staff to continue to follow the Grey County Climate Change Action Plan as a guidance document; and

**That** Council direct Township staff to develop a Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy document that creates a process to develop actionable items by department related to municipal infrastructure improvements to create resiliency, procurement requirements, asset efficiency upgrades to reduce energy consumption, resident education, financial incentives and policy changes similar to an annual 10 year rolling capital budget to identify specific actions to create a climate change projects plan for our community; and

**That** if approved the Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy become a Township Council strategy that feeds Asset Management Planning and Capital Budget decisions annually.

### **Background:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the progress of the Grey County Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) process and progress. Staff want to update Council and provide both background on the County CCAP and Southgate's suggested process to deal with Climate change as a lower tier municipality. The recommendation from staff is we do not need a consultant's report or study for Southgate. We are best to use the County Plan and develop a Southgate strategy of action items to implement and create change in our thinking, resiliency and the decisions we make.

### **Staff Comments:**

The CAO attended a virtual meeting on the Grey County Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) presentation to municipal staff on October 7, 2021. The Grey County Climate Change Action Plan's vision statement is informative as a direction of our roles. The statement says:

"The County of Grey is a clear and visible climate leader; taking actions to address climate change throughout municipal operations and in the community. By embracing energy conservation, innovative solutions, promoting awareness, and working with residents and businesses, the County is creating a more prosperous,

sustainable, and healthier future in Grey that is equitable, accessible, and inclusive of urban and rural lifestyles.”

We believe the best CCAP roles and responsibilities for lower tier municipalities are the following:

1. Prepare a Climate Change Action Plan is the first step. Southgate staff recommend that we use the County Plan as our guidance document even though you will hear some lower tiers created their own plan. We should use the County Plan as our guidance document and with their staff support create the use our financial investments in a locally created Climate Change Strategy of actions items like our budget planning annually to initiate policy amendments, incentivize environmental improvements and energy consumption reductions as positive change to create positive outcomes.
2. Southgate Council receive a presentation from Linda Swanston, Manager, Climate Change Initiatives for Grey County.
3. The Draft Grey County Public Consultation questions that we should also consider and answer are:
  - Does the draft Climate Change Action Plan Reflect your priorities?
  - What should we do first?
  - What’s your reaction to the draft GHG reduction targets?
  - How do you want to be engaged in implementing the County Climate Action Plan?
  - How can we implement these strategies to deliver the most community benefit (e.g. create jobs, advance reconciliation, improve public health, etc.)?
4. The County of Grey has created 26 Community and 14 Corporate specific strategies to address the following:
  - Community Buildings
    - Strategy #1 – Residential Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program
    - Strategy #2 – Commercial/institutional Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program
    - Strategy #3 – Green Standard for New Buildings
    - Strategy #4 – Industrial Energy Efficiency
    - Strategy #5 – Energy Efficiency Education & Awareness Program
  - Community Transportation
    - Strategy #6 – Electric Vehicle Adoption
    - Strategy #7 – Electrical Vehicle Car Share Program

- Strategy #8 – Active Transportation
- Strategy #9 – Rural Bus, Ride Share and On-demand Transit Program
- Community Transit
  - Strategy #6 – Electric Vehicle Adaptation
  - Strategy #7 – Electrical Vehicle Car Share Program
  - Strategy #8 – Active Transportation
  - Strategy #9 – Rural Bus, Ride Share and On-demand Transit Program
- Community Agriculture
  - Strategy #14 – Climate Adoption
  - Strategy #15 – Energy Efficiency Retrofits for the Farming Community
  - Strategy #16 – Promote Biogas Capture & Conversion
  - Strategy #17 – Promote Locally Grown Food
  - Strategy #18 – Facilitate Capacity Building in the Agriculture Community
- Community Land Use
  - Strategy #19 – Reforestation/Afforestation, Habitat and Biodiversity Protection
  - Strategy #20 – Compact, Mixed-Use Development in Designated Settlement Areas
- Community Renewable Energy
  - Strategy #21 – Renewable Energy (Solar PV)
  - Strategy #22 – Renewable Energy Policy
- Community Protection of Waterways and Shorelines
  - Strategy #23 – Prevention of Shoreline Erosion
  - Strategy #24 – Reducing the Risk of Flooding
  - Strategy #25 – Conservation and the Protection of Wetlands
  - Strategy #26 – Monitoring Water Quality within Waterways
- Corporate Stationary Energy
  - Strategy #1 – Outdoor Lighting Conversion to LEDs
  - Strategy #2 – Operations and Maintenance
  - Strategy #3 – Energy Efficiency Retrofits
  - Strategy #4 – Energy Efficiency New Buildings
  - Strategy #5 – Residential Demonstration Building
  - Strategy #6 – Renewable Energy
- Corporate Vehicle Fleet & Equipment
  - Strategy #7 – Reduce Single Passenger Commuting & Private Vehicles

- Strategy #8 – Fleet Operations Maintenance
- Strategy #9 – Vehicle Fleet and Equipment Electrification
- Corporate Waste
  - Strategy #10 – Corporate Waste Policy
  - Strategy #11 – Education & Awareness
- Corporate Municipal Culture
  - Strategy #12 – Municipal Climate Lens
  - Strategy #13 – Retain or Appoint an Energy and Climate Coordinator
  - Strategy #14 – Promote a Culture of Conservation

5. Determine what Southgate should focus on as a municipality. It is obvious that we need to create change to protect our communities, education to create culture change and reduce the impacts of climate change in our daily actions related to energy use and development. Areas we need to focus on are:

- Municipal & Residential Buildings – Insulation upgrades, mechanical equipment efficiency improvements, roof solar panels, net zero residential construction incentives & policies.
- Transportation – Charging stations, use of electric vehicles, natural gas/propane engine conversions for large truck fleet.
- Waste – Increase diversion and recycling.
- Agriculture – Education, forest canopy/wetland preservation and promote/incent energy use efficiencies
- Land Use – Policies to promote electricity grid consumption rather than genset power production.
- Energy – Municipal consumption reductions and promote through community education upgrading of mechanical systems in commercial, industrial and residential buildings.
- Protection of Waterways and Shorelines – Holstein Dam, bridges & culvert capacity, stormwater management systems & ponds, erosion controls and municipal drains.

### **Financial Impact or Long-Term Implications**

The no financial impact to the 2021 Budget to the municipality that will impact ratepayer taxation at the present time.

### **Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:**

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

## **Concluding Comments**

1. That Council receive staff report CAO2021-068 as information.
2. That Council direct staff to develop a Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan to develop plans on an annual basis to reduce the impacts in our community in support of the Grey County CCAP.
3. Staff has created a Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan document included in the staff report as Attachment #1, for staff to annually report on projects for each department to report to Council and gain project or policy change approval each year.

Respectfully Submitted, **CAO approval:** Original Signed By  
Dave Milliner – CAO      [dmilliner@southgate.ca](mailto:dmilliner@southgate.ca) 923-2110 x210

- Attachment 1 – Annual Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan Report